

Student Conservation Association Sierra Nevada Wilderness and Trails Project Summer 2008

During the summer of 2008 and in partnership with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, the U.S. Forest Service, and the National Forest Foundation, the Student Conservation Association (SCA) will recruit and send four high school Conservation Crews to the Inyo, Sierra, and Stanislaus National Forests. Each crew will consist of 2 crew leaders and 6 crew members and will be in the field for 21 days. The student crew members will be recruited from high schools in the Sierra Nevada, Central Valley, Los Angeles, and the San Francisco Bay Area. The crews will undertake the following projects.

Sierra National Forest

Crew # 1: John Muir Wilderness. Mammoth Ranger District. Trail maintenance, habitat restoration, and trail reconstruction in Paiute Canyon in the John Muir Wilderness. Removal of multiple, resource-damaging trails followed up with landscape restoration. This project will improve wilderness character, bring wilderness trails to standard, and address remedial actions to restore wilderness character called for in 2005 John Muir/Ansel Adams Record of Decision.

Crew # 2: John Muir Wilderness. High Sierra Ranger District. Trail maintenance and reconstruction of the Bench Valley Trail in the John Muir Wilderness. This project will reduce erosion into streams, reduce and stabilize soils and severe trail incision in meadows resulting from heavy use by pack stock, and address remedial actions to restore wilderness character called for in 2005 John Muir/Ansel Adams Record of Decision.

Stanislaus National Forest

Carson-Iceberg Wilderness. Mi-Wuk Ranger District. Reconstruction of Dardanelle Creek Trail. The trail accesses Sword Lake, one of the most popular weekend backpacking and day hiking destinations in the wilderness area. A crew is needed to reconstruct approximately 1,000' of trail tread that was destroyed by a landslide. The trail requires removal of downed trees using traditional crosscut saw methods, restoration of tread outslope, and maintenance of drainage structures. The project will bring this trail up to standard, prevent future soil erosion into Dardanelle Creek, and restore safe access to a popular destination.

Inyo National Forest

Golden Trout Wilderness. Mt. Whitney Ranger District. Maintain Cottonwood Lakes Trail and Blackrock to Kern River Trail. Repairs existing livestock wilderness enclosure fences in Horsehoe Meadows and Casa Viejo Meadow. Clean-up of wilderness campsites. The project will improve wilderness character, reduce stock impacts to wilderness meadows, and improve wilderness access.